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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL. 274

ARTCRAFT PRINTERS BOZEMAN, MONTANA

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1966

Industrial Employment Up 6,300 From Last Year

Industrial employment in Montana was at the high crest of activity during July and August. The peak employment total for the year may have been reached in July with the 195,300 wage earners who received paychecks from industrial and commercial employers in the state during that month. The first signs of a seasonal leveling off of employment totals occurred in August. Total non-farm employment was estimated at 194,600, down 700 from July. Still, employment this August showed a hefty increase of 6,300 over the same month last year. The continuity of record breaking monthly employment levels remained. Every month so far this year recorded the highest industrial employment ever achieved in comparison with comparable months of all past years. High employment totals are expected to carry through September and October with some moderately normal declines in those industries subject to seasonal pressures.

Over the Month Gains in Five Industries—Five of the eight basic industry groups showed employment gains from July to August. Trade industries headed this list with the addition of 400 employees for an employment total of 45,800. Wholesale and retail trade firms shared equally in the gain. Employment was up by 200 in both construction and service industries. Showing advances of 100 each were manufacturing, and the

finance, insurance, and real estate groups. Government employment was down by 1,600, with a drop of 1,300 at the state and local level and 300 in federal operations. Employment in the transportation, communications, and utilities segment receded by 100 workers with all of the decline in railroad payrolls. Total mining payrolls, at 7,500, did not change from the previous month.

Seven Groups Exceed Last Year — A non-farm employment total 6,300 higher this August than last is manifested in the fact that seven industry groups had more workers on their payrolls this year. Job increases of more than 1,000 are credited in each of three industries. Government topped the list with a gain of 1,700. Manufacturing, a close second, was up 1,400 with half of this increase in lumber activities. Expansion in trade firms is shown in a job total of 45,800, up 1,300 from a year ago. A good schedule of building, road, and heavy construction projects found contractor's payrolls 800 heavier than last year. August employment in service industries was figured at 27,300 indicating a gain of 800 workers. More modest job advances of 300 in finance, insurance and real estate firms, and 100 in the transportation, communications, and utilities group completed the credit side of the employment picture. Mining was the only industry to show fewer workers on payrolls from August last year. A drop of 100 left a total employment figure of 7,500. A decline of 300 workers in petroleum and natural gas production overshadowed gains of 100 each in metal mining and coal, quar-

rying, and non-metallic segments of the industry to leave the deficit.

Worker Shortages Still Continue — Many good jobs throughout the state were waiting for qualified workers. Some were to replace students who returned to classrooms after a summer season of work. Others were in industries such as logging, metal mining, and trade which have been especially hard pressed all season to locate an adequate supply of qualified workers. The shortage inventory still includes loggers, miners, student miners, cooks, waitresses, sales clerks, clerical help, and smelter workers.

Industry Job Hiring up 5.6% — Reflecting an active economy, August industrial job placements by the 23 local employment offices exceeded last year by nearly 6 per cent. A total of 5,012 workers were placed in industrial jobs during the month. More than half of these workers went to jobs in trade and service firms. Industry employers listed 5,951 job openings during the month, up 6.7 from August last year.

Farm Front Active—Nearly 6,500 farm workers were placed in a variety of agricultural activities during August. Operations included fruit, hay and vegetable harvests. The upcoming potato and sugar beet harvests and processing will provide employment for several thousand additional workers as the season draws to a close. With few exceptions, labor supply and demand was fairly well in balance throughout most of the state.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	July 1966	June 1966	July 1965	July 1966	June 1966	July 1965	July 1966	June 1966	July 1965	July 1966	June 1966	July 1965	July 1966	June 1966	July 1965
All Manufacturing	4.6	8.6	5.3	4.1	7.3	4.8	4.9	5.2	5.6	3.4	3.2	2.5	.3	.8	1.8
Durable Goods	4.5	9.8	6.2	4.0	8.3	5.7	5.9	6.3	5.9	4.0	3.7	3.1	.3	1.0	1.3
Primary Metal	5.7	9.5	5.0	4.5	5.9	3.9	4.8	4.5	5.4	2.0	1.7	1.3	*	*	.5
Nondurable Goods	4.8	5.9	3.4	4.4	5.2	3.0	2.7	3.0	5.0	2.1	2.2	1.3	.1	.4	3.0
All Mining	5.2	10.2	8.9	3.0	5.7	3.5	6.0	6.9	5.5	3.0	3.7	2.9	.5	.7	.9
Metal Mining	5.4	11.7	7.8	2.4	5.3	2.9	5.9	7.3	6.2	3.5	4.1	3.2	*	*	.7

* Less than .05

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for August

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—Economy bolstered by increased activity at smelter. Construction and remodeling of zinc concentrator nears completion. About 300 production jobs will result by year's end. Increased volume in trade, service and other industries will follow. Economic climate shows marked improvement from last year with good employment gains in most industries.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—More than \$23 million in commercial building projects keeps most building trades craftsmen on payrolls. In addition new projects in offing include \$4 million oil refinery expansion, \$1.5 million college building, and \$667,000 feed pellet mill at Hardin. Highway project payrolls have 375 on construction. Yellowtail Dam employment being reduced weekly with present work force of about 250 men. Good labor demand trends in main street trade and service firms. Harvesting of 35,000 acres of sugar beets begins at end of September. Sugar beet refineries will employ 700 seasonal workers.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Tri-dent—Economic conditions were never better evidenced by peak industrial employment and small percentage of unemployment. Good monthly employment gains noted in construction and transportation industries. New building projects on university campus total nearly \$2½ million. Woods and mill employment at high capacity. Trade and service volume increasing with influx of 6,000 college students.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—An active fall labor market in evidence with good employment directions in most industry groups. Shortages of miners and student miners still persist for metal mining activities. Building and highway construction at fairly good pace. Work started on downtown parking mall. Trade and service volume good but little new hiring noted.

CUT BANK—Active schedule of construction most potent force in labor market. Projects include supermarket, a Browning school, and several dams in area. A prosperous air noted in trade and service firms. Farm labor demand increasing with start of grain harvest.

DILLON—Heavy farm labor demand resulted in 151 job placements for variety of farm and ranch work. Building and road construction active. Work on more than \$1 million in college building

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE (In Thousands)					
	Aug. 66	July 66	Aug. 65	July 66 to Aug. 66	Aug. 65 to Aug. 66
Civilian Work Force.....	283.6	293.9	273.3	—10.3	10.3
Total Employment.....	273.9	282.7	263.3	— 8.8	10.6
Total Non-Agricultural Employment.....	228.5	229.6	220.1	— 1.1	8.4
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary).....	194.6	195.3	188.3	— .7	6.3
Total Agricultural Employment.....	45.4	53.1	43.2	— 7.7	2.2
Labor Management Disputes.....	.1	.1	.2	.0	.1
Total Unemployment.....	9.6	11.1	9.8	— 1.5	.2
Percent Unemployed.....	3.4	3.8	3.6		
U.S. Unemployment Rate.....	3.7	4.0	4.2		

projects to start end of September, including men's dorm and addition to library and physical education building. Trade and service volume show good seasonal trends.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—High employment levels being maintained in most industries. Ideal weather permitted good progress on farm and other outdoor endeavors. Road construction and city water treatment plant projects. Good employment gains recorded in trade establishments.

GLENDAVE, Circle, Wibaux—Labor market indicators reveal little change in economic conditions from last year. Construction and oil field activities on the slow side. Work started on Yellowstone River bridge but only 6 employed due to material shortages. Little hiring noted on several other road and bridge projects. Main street trends not too active.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—Trade and service firms provided most of new job opportunities during the month. October 1 opening of new shopping center will require 200 workers in sales, clerical, and other classifications. Construction employment which peaked earlier now shows only limited job demands. Farm job placements exceeded comparable period last year by 25 per cent.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—Industrial job placements on par with last year except for construction where a sharp decline occurred. The tight money situation for commercial and home building caused drop in demand for lumber products. Hay and cherry harvests brought high demand for workers with more than 350 workers placed.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—Employment in farm and industry holding up

well for the Fall season. Trade, service, and construction hiring new workers to replace students returning to school. Work started on \$80,000 building at Northern Montana College. Plans underway for new restaurant. Some shortage of farm help expected for windup of grain and hay harvests.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—Tempo of labor demand remains at high level in all industry segments. Short supply of cooks, waitresses, and sales clerks carried over from earlier months. Good progress evident in \$10 million of building projects including 3 schools, hospital, shopping center, and capitol renovation. Steady farm labor demand.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—Industry job placements up from last year led by sharp rise in construction and trade activities. Some decline noted in demand for lumber industry workers due to current tight money market in building industry. Strong demand continued for service industry workers. Processing of sweet cherry crop and haying took 300 workers.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—Industry job hiring shows little change from last month and last year. Building projects include airport hangar, and additions to two grain elevators. Farm job placements exceeded last year but were not up to expectations.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—Good hiring patterns covered most industries during the month. Worker shortages developed in trade and service classifications as students quit jobs to return to school. Railroad and lumbering at peak volume. New high school construction employs 40. New bank building nears completion. Farm labor shortages include hay hands and farm couples.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956.....	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957.....	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958.....	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959.....	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960.....	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961.....	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962.....	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963.....	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964.....	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965.....	168.3	167.8	169.3	174.2	178.9	187.2	187.3	188.3	187.0	186.8	183.7	181.8	180.0
1966.....	174.4	173.1	174.4	180.3	185.0	194.7	195.3	194.6*					

* Preliminary estimate

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry — Drought conditions are chiefly responsible for a decline in job hiring in both industry and farm. Consumer spending being held to minimum. Other than two federal building projects, construction at standstill. Sharp drop noted in main street hiring.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—Area economy reveals substantial seasonal strength in most industry groups, with several exceptions. Hot dry weather reduced demand for farm labor with most employers trading help rather than hiring on their own. A tight money situation cut down on new construction starts and adversely affected the lumber industry.

POLSON — Activity in construction and lumber operations slowed due to scarcity of capital in the money market. Trade and service employment holding fairly firm but with little new hiring. Farm job placements up with good yields from cherry orchards.

SHELBY — Trade firms generated most new job opportunities during the month. Slight worker decline noted in service industries. Building construction at fairly good pace with commercial building the major projects. Adequate labor supply available for grain harvest with nearly 300 workers placed on this work.

SIDNEY — An exceptionally good year in agriculture makes for a sound general over-all economy for this area. Good yields of grain, corn silage, and beans reported. Sugar beet harvest to start October 1 with record yields expected. Trade and service volume at good seasonal levels.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs — Students returning to school made for more replacement hiring in sawmills and trade firms. Some minor shortages of logging and sawmill workers existed. Home and other building construction at standstill with no major projects in sight. The only road project in area will be completed by end of September.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey — Construction employment should advance next two months as work continues on 7 mile road job, curb and street project, \$100,000 nursing home, and several commercial expansion and remodeling projects. Trade and service employment at good levels with some shortages of food industry workers. Job openings for oil field workers developing as students leave for school after a summer season of work.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Aug. 1966 (2)	July 1966 (3)	Aug. 1965	July '66 to Aug. '66	Aug. '66 Against Aug. '65
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	194,600	195,300	188,300	-700	6,300
Manufacturing	24,600	24,500	23,200	100	1,400
Durable goods	16,400	16,400	15,300	00	1,100
Lumber and timber products	10,300	10,300	9,600	00	700
Primary metals	4,000	4,000	3,800	00	200
Other (4)	2,100	2,100	1,900	00	200
Nondurable goods	8,200	8,100	7,900	100	300
Food and kindred products	4,300	4,300	4,100	00	200
Printing and publishing	1,800	1,800	1,800	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,100	1,100	1,100	00	00
Other (5)	1,000	900	900	100	100
Mining	7,500	7,500	7,600	00	-100
Metal mining	4,800	4,800	4,700	00	100
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,200	1,200	1,100	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,500	1,500	1,800	00	-300
Contract Construction	15,300	15,100	14,500	200	800
Contractors, building construction	3,800	3,700	2,600	100	1,200
Contractors, other than building	7,100	7,000	7,800	100	-700
Contractors, special trade	4,400	4,400	4,100	00	300
Transportation and utilities	18,600	18,700	18,500	-100	100
Interstate railroads	7,800	7,900	7,900	-100	-100
Transportation except railroads	4,500	4,500	4,300	00	200
Utilities including communication	6,300	6,300	6,300	00	00
Trade	45,800	45,400	44,500	400	1,300
Wholesale trade	9,400	9,200	9,100	200	300
Retail trade	36,400	36,200	35,400	200	1,000
General merchandise and apparel	6,600	6,600	6,700	00	-100
Food stores	6,200	6,200	5,700	00	500
Eating and drinking establishments	10,200	10,000	9,900	200	300
Automotive and filling stations	7,000	7,000	7,100	00	-100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,400	6,400	6,000	00	400
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,500	7,400	7,200	100	300
Services and miscellaneous	27,300	27,100	26,500	200	800
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	4,600	4,500	4,400	100	200
Personal services	2,000	2,000	2,100	00	-100
Other (6)	20,700	20,600	20,000	100	700
Government	48,000	49,600	46,300	-1,600	1,700
Federal	14,300	14,600	13,500	-300	800
State and local	33,700	35,000	32,800	-1,300	900
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,700	23,400	23,200	300	500
Manufacturing	3,400	3,400	3,300	00	100
Contract construction	2,300	2,200	2,700	100	-400
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,300	6,100	5,900	200	400
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,600	3,600	3,700	00	-100
Government	4,700	4,700	4,200	00	500
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,900	25,200	24,800	-300	100
Manufacturing	2,800	2,800	2,800	00	00
Contract construction	1,700	1,700	1,700	00	00
Transportation and Utilities	2,400	2,400	2,500	00	-100
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,700	7,700	7,700	00	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,600	1,600	1,500	00	100
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,700	4,700	4,600	00	100
Government	4,000	4,300	4,000	-300	00

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 791 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,198 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical

and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN AUGUST 1966 AND AUGUST 1965

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								U1 Claims*	
	Aug. 1966		Aug. 1965		Aug. 1966		Aug. 1965		Aug. 1966				Aug. 1965				Wk. 9-2	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1966	1965
Anaconda	156	85	105	10	172	81	209	19	225	28	253	73	96	82	128	10	44	79
Billings	644	226	617	158	1,068	346	1,264	255	789	1,038	1,827	545	753	1,107	1,850	855	872	496
Bozeman	272	49	273	44	150	19	177	15	204	107	811	53	179	102	281	27	28	45
Butte	375	127	471	102	761	168	990	134	204	25	229	71	251	46	297	61	184	303
Cut Bank	44	7	41	4	96	12	121	17	219	86	305	106	117	115	232	87	34	25
Dillon	78	34	60	27	75	17	64	6	52	158	210	106	63	169	222	96	15	18
Glasgow	77	17	53	1	102	7	92	2	98	77	175	38	96	78	174	31	37	34
Glendive	51	6	49	1	82	5	94	1	62	75	187	9	59	167	226	8	21	27
Great Falls	628	223	464	62	1,255	321	924	108	744	1,604	2,348	866	704	1,446	2,150	348	241	268
Hamilton	64	18	63	9	61	16	143	12	84	366	450	48	151	651	802	31	25	34
Harve	42	7	101	8	55	6	61	3	94	492	588	33	72	906	978	86	30	53
Helena	245	78	184	23	229	46	273	50	302	77	379	121	202	184	386	99	79	144
Kalispell	373	85	356	62	685	141	567	97	395	307	702	128	366	226	592	86	182	157
Lewistown	41	9	70	12	50	9	83	5	60	276	336	45	70	261	831	85	18	26
Livingston	47	10	75	1	83	11	76	9	92	89	131	31	157	57	214	44	16	26
Miles City	76	9	64	4	76	11	89	5	62	42	104	29	110	63	173	45	16	28
Missoula	711	235	672	67	1,123	380	913	223	367	66	433	134	417	102	619	97	162	129
Polson	69	24	93	8	100	20	231	29	45	212	267	48	47	23	70	11	41	58
Shelby	71	26	79	21	48	12	62	6	52	366	418	59	50	259	309	84	17	20
Sidney	75	10	65	5	83	4	103	5	110	156	266	16	104	80	184	36	24	20
Thom. Falls	46	16	52	5	53	12	46	8	32	6	38	16	67	17	84	16	10	19
Wolf Point	38	10	58	7	57	14	42	6	32	78	110	34	38	141	179	24	29	42
Billings YOC**	256	14	263		523	18	566		341	17	858	9	238	7	245			
TOTALS	4,772	1,270	4,228	636	6,887	1,565	7,180	1,010	4,655	5,698	10,363	2,166	4,397	6,239	10,636	1,667	1,625	2,061

*Includes 103 claims of the Fed. UC Program 145 same a year ago.

** Youth Opportunity Center.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug. (1) 1966	July (2) 1966	Aug. 1965	Aug. (1) 1966	July (2) 1966	Aug. 1965	Aug. (1) 1966	July (2) 1966	Aug. 1965
All Manufacturing	115.82	116.00	120.13	39.8	40.0	42.3	2.91	2.90	2.84
Durable Goods	114.00	112.92	116.20	40.0	39.9	41.8	2.85	2.83	2.78
Primary Metal	117.87	122.59	116.47	38.9	41.0	40.3	3.03	2.99	2.89
Nondurable Goods	120.17	123.51	129.06	39.4	40.1	43.6	3.05	3.08	2.96
Food and Kindred Products	110.12	112.29	127.47	41.4	41.9	49.6	2.66	2.68	2.57
All Mining	130.80	127.16	119.14	40.0	38.3	37.0	3.27	3.32	3.22
Metal Mining	128.48	128.14	116.27	37.9	37.8	34.5	3.39	3.39	3.37
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	120.13	116.11	111.95	41.0	39.9	39.7	2.93	2.91	2.82

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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